

Message Text

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41

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 AID-05 COME-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02

SS-15 OIC-02 OMB-01 FRB-03 TRSE-00 /055 W

----- 116122

R 2808251 AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3297

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE COLOMBO 2702

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: EFIN, EAID, CE

SUBJECT: SRI LANKA DELEGATION TO IMF/IBRD MEETINGS

REF: (A) COLOMBO 2265 (B) STATE 165594 (C) 204597

1. SINCE REF (B) SENT, RECENT CABINET CRISIS AND
RESULTING POSSIBILITY OF SPLIT IN GSL UNITED FRONT
COALITION HAS CHANGED GSL DELEGATION GIVEN REF (A).
FINANCE MINISTER NM. PERERA WILL NOT ATTEND

BECAUSE HE IS LEADER OF TROTSKYITE LANKA SAMA SAMAJA
PARTY WHICH IS LOCKED IN CONFRONTATION WITH ITS
COALITION PARTNER WITH OUTCOME NOT YET CLEAR. SENIOR ASSISTANT
SECRETARY PERERA (N.M. PERERA'S NEPHEW) WILL ALSO NOT ATTEND.

2. ACCORDING TO PLANNING MINISTRY EXTERNAL
RESOURCES DIRECTOR S. VELAYUTHAM, GSL DELEGATION
WILL NOW BE (SEE REF A(A)): A) CENTRAL BANK GOVERNOR
TENNEKOON B) FINANCE MINISTRY SECRETARY JAYAWARDENE C) GSL F
AMBASSADOR TO WASHINGTON KANAKARATNE D) MEMBER IMF EXECUTIVE
DIRECTORS W.M. TILAKARENE E) GSL EMBASSY ECONOMIC
COUNSELOR JAMES LANEROLLE F) OVELAYUTHAM.

3. QUESTION OF DELEGATION CHIEF MAY PROVE
DELICATE. TENNEKOON IS SENIOR IN GLS RACE AND
IMF ALTERNATE GOVERNOR. JAYAWARDENE IS
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ALTERNATE IBRD GOVERNOR AND CHAIRMAN OF
DEPUTIES OF GROUP OF 24 (LATTER EX OFFICIO DUE
TO N.M. PERERA'S CHAIRMANSHIP OF G24 MINISTERS).
ACCORDING VELAYUTHAM, THEY MAY HAVE TO WORK OUT
PRECEDENCE FOR JOINT SESSION THEMSELVES.

4. JAYAWARDENE AND VELAYUTHAM HAVE SEPARATELY
INDICATED TO EMBASSY IN RECENT CONVERSATIONS
THAT THERE WOULD BE NO BILATERAL MATTERS TO BE
TAKEN UP FORMALLY WITH U.S. DELEGATION. GSL
EMBASSY WASHINGTON IS ARRANGING FOR VELAYUTHAM APPOINTMENTS
WITH AID/W AND STATE OFFICIALS CONCERNING AID
AND PL-480.

5. OUR SUGGESTED GUIDANCE IN REF (A) FOR
APPROACHING GSL DELEGATES INFORMALLY STILL STANDS.
DESPITE CURRENT DOMESTIC POLITICAL UNCERTAINTIES
AND BURDENS OF SRI LANKA'S CHRONIC FINANCIAL
CRISIS, JAYAWARDENE SASC HE WILL CONTINUE
HIS STRONG INTEREST IN INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC
ISSUES. INFORMATION HERE AND FROM WASHINGTON
INDICATES GLS IS ACTIVELY CONSIDERING ECONOMIC
POLICY CHANGES PROBABLY FLOWING MAINLY FROM
CONTINUING CONSULTATIONS WIT IMF. ANY WORD
FROM GSL DELEGATES ON ECONOMIC ACTIONS
GSL MIGHT TAKE ONCE POLITICAL SITUATION CLARIFIES
WOULD BE OF INTEREST.
VAN HOLLEN

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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